

Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 3433

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF CHINA NEWS JUNE 13
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "LESS THAN OBJECTIVE":

2. (BEGIN TEXT) NOT LONG AGO WE DEFENDED THE VOICE OF
AMERICA AS REASONABLY OBJECTIVE, CONSIDERING ITS ROLE AS
A GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA AGENCY.

3. BUT VOA'S PROPAGANDA SLIP WAS SHOWING AGAIN
YESTERDAY MORNING IN A WAY WHICH WAS BOTH UNTRUE AND
UNFRIENDLY TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

4. A VOICE COMMENTATOR WAS DISCUSSING THE OPENING OF
DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINESE
COMMUNISTS.

5. HE SAID THAT THE MANILA-PEIPING AGREEMENT REQUIRED
THE PHILIPPINES TO STOP TRADING WITH TAIWAN AND THAT
THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS
UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ISOLATE THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

6. THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT CALL FOR A TRADE BREAK.
OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPPINES HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR THE

OPENING OF TRADE OFFICES IN TAIPEI AND MANILA.

7. IN FACT, THE PHILIPPINES REQUESTED A JAPAN-ROC STYLE ARRANGEMENT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY DECLINED. TO HAVE GONE ALONG WOULD HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS ACCEPTANCE OF MANILA'S APPROACHES TO PEIPING.

8. VOA MAY HAVE ERRED BECAUSE A TRADE AGREEMENT WAS PART OF THE PACKAGE THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS TIED UP WHILE IN PEIPING.

9. IF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE CLAIMING SUCCESS IN THE ISOLATION OF TAIWAN, THAT IS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR THE VOICE OF AMERICA TO BE CAUTIOUS. VOA CANNOT TAKE PEIPING AT ITS WORD. IF IT DOES, WE SHOULD PROTECT.

10. ANYONE WHO CAN READ TRADE STATISTICS KNOWS THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE FREE WORLD COUNTRIES TO TERMINATE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

11. EVERY COUNTRY WHICH HAS CUT DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH TAIPEI AND RECOGNIZED PEIPING HAS CONTINUED TO TRADE WITH TAIWAN. IN EVERY CASE, THE TRADE HAS CONTINUED TO GROW FOLLOWING THE DIPLOMATIC SEVERANCE.

12. WHAT THE VOICE HAS TO SAY WILL NOT AFFECT THE REALITY OF ONGOING COMMERCE BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

13. BUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OF WHICH VOA IS A PART, HAS AN OBLIGATION TO KEEP IN MIND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PLANE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S STRUGGLE TO REMAIN STRONG AND FREE.

14. THE IMPLICATION THAT WE HAVE BEEN SORELY HURT BY OUR COMMUNIST ANTAGONISTS, AND THAT WE ARE HANGING ONTO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ROPES AND WAITING FOR A KNOCKOUT, CAN DAMAGE OUR IMAGE INTERNATIONALLY AND IS SCARCELY DESIGNED TO HEIGHTEN OUR MORALE.

15. ISOLATION IS IN THE MINDS OF THE COMMUNISTS. IF THEY CAN CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT ISOLATION EXISTS, THE REAL THING COULD EASILY FOLLOW.

16. IN ALL THE VOA REPORTING ON PRESIDENT MARCOS' TRIP TO PEIPING, WE HEARD SCARCELY ANY MENTION OF REACTION FROM TAIPEI. YET THERE WAS OFFICIAL COMMENT AND IT WAS CARRIED BY THE WIRE SERVICES.

17. VOA'S REPORTING IS ALSO DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY IDENTIFYING IT AS TAIWAN. THE
UNITED STATES HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA AND NOT WITH TAIWAN, WHICH IS THE NAME OF AN
ISLAND AND NOT OF A COUNTRY.

18. THE VOICE NEVER SPEAKS OF "CHINESE COMMUNISTS" BUT
ONLY OF "CHINA" OR THE "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC." THAT IS THE
WAY THE COMMUNISTS WANT TO BE DESCRIBED. DOES OUR
PREFERENCE FOR BEING CALLED THE "REPUBLIC OF CHINA"
CARRY LESS WEIGHT WITH VOA -- AND IF SO, WHY? (END TEXT.)
CLARKE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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